Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Lk *11:1-13*(c)

God is always good to us, faithful and kind forever, so don't get tired of praying.

The main themes of today's Scripture readings emphasise the importance of prayer in our lives. Let me begin today's homily with two stories. Almost six months ago, I met a parishioner at a restaurant over breakfast. I asked why I couldn't find him at Mass on Sunday. He explained that his nephew had died young from an illness. He prayed for his healing, but God didn't answer, so he stopped attending church.

There was a father who had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and was given just two months to live. His children prayed fervently, asking God to grant their father more years. Sadly, the father passed away before those two months were up. The children felt devastated and uncertain, thinking their prayers went unanswered. Their mother gently reassured them, saying, "God answered your prayers, but in a different way. He didn't want your papa to suffer for a long time with terrible pain, so He took him home much earlier than we expected. We have two approaches to prayer life.

In today's first reading, Abraham, our father in faith, demonstrated extraordinary courage. Without fear, he approached God and boldly interceded on behalf of Lot, his nephew. His request was accepted. God saved his brother Lot and his family.

In today's Psalms, we find assurance from David. He says, "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us that it is through faith that we must constantly approach God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares with His disciples how to pray, and beyond that, God offers us reassurance and a promise through these words. Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened. Jesus emphasises the importance of persistence in

prayer, teaching us that we shouldn't just say a few prayers and then give up if they seem unanswered. Instead, we are encouraged to keep asking God for His grace, trusting that He will bless us in His perfect timing and fullness.

Maybe we still have so many questions when we pray. For example, what do I gain from praying? Why do I continue praising God when sometimes He doesn't seem to hear and give what I ask for from Him?

Here, he reminds us that what we need is to be persistent, patient, and humble in our prayer life. However, I would like to remind you all of one phrase based on today's reading. **God is always good to us, faithful and kind forever, so don't get tired of praying.**

Faithful in listening and responding. Kind in forgiving and embracing. Still, you have doubts regarding God answering our prayers. I have an example from the bible.

Israelites waited with prayer and suffering for 40 years to reach the promised land, but finally they got there. God was at their side, faithful and kind, so they never felt tired of praying.

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prayed at the temple for a child. So God was with them, faithful and kind.

God promised Abraham, at the age of 75, a child, but he and Sarah waited with prayer for 25 years; then, at the age of 100, he had Isaac. So God was with them, faithful and kind. so they never felt tired of praying.

Isaac and Rebekah waited twenty years for their first child. Therefore, God was with them, faithful and kind, So they never felt tired of praying.

Zechariah and Elizabeth waited for a long time in prayer for a child. Finally, they had John the Baptist. So God was with them, faithful and kind.

Once again, you ask me a specific question. My priesthood is the answer to your question about God's response to our prayers—11 years of waiting and praying . I can confidently tell you that I have never felt tired while praying because God has been with me, faithful and kind.

Dear one, you have been praying for a long time for some intentions. You are not seeing even a positive sign, but remember it is a promise of God. Keep knocking at the door, don't get tired, I will open the door soon. Indeed, God has His reasons, even if our requests receive negative answers. There is no such thing as unanswered prayers. All our prayers are being answered. In prayer, we do not expect God to answer us in the way we want but in the way God wants because He knows what is best for us. Hence the saying: "Man proposes, God disposes."

To conclude, remember that **God is always good, faithful, and kind forever, so don't get tired of praying.**

Fr. Deny